

Method and Apparatus for Soft Handoff Communications in a Communication  
System Operating According to IS-95B and IS-95C Standards

Abstract of the Disclosure

5           A method and apparatus provide for soft handoff operation of at least a  
first signal transmitted according to a first communication standard (IS-95B)  
and a second signal transmitted according to a second communication  
standard (IS-95C). A mobile station (104) initially receives the first signal,  
detects presence of a pilot signal, measures pilot signal strength, transmits a  
10 pilot strength measurement message, fails to receive a handoff direction  
message after transmitting the pilot strength measurement message, searches  
for detecting presence of a broadcast control channel associated with the type  
IS-95C cell sites, measures a carrier to interference ratio of the broadcast  
control channel, compares the carrier to interference ratio to a threshold, if  
15 the carrier to interference ratio is above the threshold, initiates a second  
communication according to IS-95C standard, thus, allowing initiating a soft  
handoff operation by allowing the base sites to transmit information according  
to the IS-95B and IS-95C standards respectively via the first and second  
signals. MS 104 combines the first and second signals to take advantage of  
20 the soft hand-off operation.